1-9. (CANCELED)

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A vehicle gearbox (2) having a housing (4) incorporating torque-transmitting components (14, 16, 18, 20, 30) and including a coupling device (30) located on an input side of the vehicle gearbox (2) for connection with a drive machine (8) which drives the vehicle gearbox (2), the housing (4) having actuating elements (40, 46, 56, 60, 64, 66) for actuating the torque-transmitting components (14, 16, 18, 20, 30);[[,]] the vehicle gearbox comprising:

a connection plate (32) having a first tube (36) located concentrically inside a second tube (34) to define an annular space (38) for receiving an annular actuating piston (40) arranged to move axially in the annular space (38) between the first and second tubes (34, 36); and

wherein the connection plate (32) is fixedly secured to the housing (4) adjacent an area that extends in a direction of the coupling device (30), and the connection plate (32) having lodgements are for at least parts of the actuating elements (40, 46, 56, 60, 64, 66) for actuating the torque-transmitting components (14, 16, 18, 20, 30).

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The vehicle gearbox (2) according to claim 10, wherein a first lodgement is provided in the connection plate (32) for supporting at least a portion of an actuating device (40, 46) of the coupling device (30).

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The vehicle gearbox (2) according to claim 10, wherein the coupling device (30) is a clutch with central disengagement.

13. (CANCELED)

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The vehicle gearbox (2) according to claim 10, wherein a first lodgement is provided in the connection plate (32) for supporting the actuating elements (56, 60, 64, 66) which shift gear wheels (14, 18) of the vehicle gearbox (2) into and out of a torque-transmitting condition.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The vehicle gearbox (2) according to claim 14, wherein the actuating elements include parts of a shift system (56, 64) of a main transmission section of the vehicle gearbox (2).

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The vehicle gearbox (2) according to claim 14, wherein the actuating elements include parts of a shift system (58, 60, 66) of a splitter group gearset of the vehicle gearbox (2).

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The vehicle gearbox (2) according to claim 14, wherein the actuating elements include parts of a shift system of a range-change group gearset of the vehicle gearbox.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The vehicle gearbox (2) according to claim 14, wherein the actuating elements (56, 60, 64, 66) include pneumatic cylinders (64, 66), a first part (50, 58) of the pneumatic cylinders (64, 66) being formed by the connection plate (32) and a second part (52, 70) of the pneumatic cylinders (64, 66) being formed by the housing (4).

19. (NEW) A vehicle transmission for receiving an input drive and transferring torque to a gear system having torque-transmitting components (14, 16, 18, 20, 30), the transmission comprising:

a clutch for engaging and disengaging the input drive with the vehicle transmission;

a connection plate supporting the axial displacement of at least a portion of the clutch, the connection plate comprising:

a central passage for receiving an input shaft

an annular space surrounding the central passage for housing an annular actuating device for actuating the clutch; and

wherein the central passage is defined by an inner surface of a first cylindrical wall and the annular space for housing the actuating device is defined between an outer surface of the first cylindrical wall and a second cylindrical wall radially spaced and concentric about the first cylindrical wall and the input shaft.

20. (NEW) The vehicle transmission for receiving an input drive and transferring torque to a gear system as set forth in claim 19 wherein the connection plate (32) is fixedly secured to the housing (4) and the connection plate (32) having lodgements supporting at least an actuating element directly effecting the torque-transmitting components (14, 16, 18, 20, 30) during a gearshift of the transmission.

21. (NEW) The vehicle transmission for receiving an input drive and transferring torque to a gear system as set forth in claim 19 wherein the annular actuating device further comprises an axially slidable piston, a multiplicity of seals and a torsion spring, where the piston, the seals, the first tube, and the second tube define an airtight compartment; and

wherein a controller adjusts the pneumatic pressure in the airtight compartment and the axially slidable piston can be actuated by the force of the torsion spring and by changes in pneumatic pressure.

22. (NEW) A vehicle transmission for receiving an input drive and transferring torque to a gear system having torque-transmitting components (14, 16, 18, 20, 30), the transmission comprising:

a clutch for engaging and disengaging the input drive with the vehicle transmission;

a connection plate supporting the axial displacement of at least a portion of the clutch, the connection plate comprising:

a central passage for receiving an input shaft

an annular space surrounding the central passage for housing an annular actuating device for actuating the clutch;

the central passage is defined by an inner surface of a first cylindrical tube and the annular space for housing the annular actuating device is defined between an outer surface of the first cylindrical wall and a second cylindrical wall radially spaced and concentric about the first cylindrical wall and the input shaft;

a first lodgement is provided in the connection plate (32) for supporting actuating elements (56, 60, 64, 66) which directly shift gear wheels (14, 18) of the gear system into and out of a torque-transmitting condition; and

wherein the actuating elements include parts of a shift system (56, 64) of a main transmission section of the vehicle transmission.

23. (NEW) The vehicle transmission for receiving an input drive and transferring torque to a gear system as set forth in claim 22 wherein the actuating elements comprise parts of a shift system (58, 60, 66) of a splitter group gearset of the vehicle gearbox (2).

24. (NEW) The vehicle transmission for receiving an input drive and transferring torque to a gear system as set forth in claim 22 wherein the actuating elements include parts of a shift system of a range-change group gearset of the vehicle gearbox.